



**DISTRICT PRACTICE 5600**  
**CUSTODY OF CHILDREN AND**  
**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

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**DISTRICT PRACTICE**

Practices to be followed by the principal or their designate are as follows:

1. Establish which parent/guardian has custody. When parents are living separate and apart, the parent who usually has care and control of the child is the guardian of the child unless a court order otherwise states, or the mother and father make a written agreement between them which provides that one of them is the sole guardian.
2. School administrators are entitled to rely on the information concerning guardianship, custody, access and usual care and control of the child which is provided to the school at the time of initial registration. If there is a change in the legal status of the parents, it is up to the parents to bring it to the attention of the school and provide the documentation to support the change.
3. If the non-custodial parent demands information regarding the child's education, including teacher interviews, that parent must give proof of reasonable access or joint guardianship, such as a court order. The principal or their designate must obtain a copy of the proof for the student's file. If the non-custodial parent has such proof, then provide information as requested. If the non-custodial parent cannot provide evidence, do not provide any information.
4. If school administrators have any questions as to the validity or meaning of an order or separation agreement, they should seek advice from District staff or legal counsel rather than relying on any representation from the person providing the order or agreement.
5. Normally provide personal contact only to the custodial parent/guardian. However, in situations where compatible arrangements can be made between the estranged spouses and the principal, the principal can use their discretion in granting personal contact with the student to the access parent/guardian. In antagonistic situations where the custodial parent/guardian and non-custodial parent do not get along, the principal should abide by the wishes of the custodial parent/guardian, and advise the access parent/guardian to either convince the custody parent/guardian to alter their point of view, or resort to the courts to specify the degree of access.

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**REFERENCES:** School Act, Sec. [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [11](#). [Family Relations Act.](#), Harris & Company "Guidelines for School Admin: The Rights of Parents on Separation and Divorce".

**ADOPTED:** March 1998

**Amended:** November 2007, June 2020, December 14, 2021